INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Doordarshan entered into an agreement with a company in USA for distributing its international channel in USA, North America, Canada, and the Caribbean islands. However, the company failed to meet its contractual obligation and the agreement has been cancelled. The losses to Doordarshan are notional as DD International continued to be available in free to air mode as earlier.

Shortage of Staff in Central Offices in Manipur

1610. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of Central offices like Field Publicity, PIB etc. are not properly functioning in Manipur due to shortage of staff and heads of offices;

(b) if so, the number of vacancies available in different Central offices; and

(c) whether it is better to integrate the Central offices like Field Publicity, PIB etc under one roof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Central Offices of this Ministry like Field Publicity, PIB etc. in Manipur are functioning satisfactorily. The vacancy position in DFP and PIB Units in Manipur in four and one respectively. The filling up of vacancies is an ongoing process.

(c) Each Media Unit of this Ministry has specific objectives and it is not possible to integrate all their activities under one roof.